

NW, Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0041, Technical Proposal-Two-Step Sealed Bidding, in all correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph DeStefano, Federal Acquisition Policy Division, GSA (202) 501-1758.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Purpose

Two-step sealed bidding is a method of contracting designed to obtain the benefits of sealed bidding when adequate specifications are not available. An objective is to permit the development of a sufficiently descriptive and not unduly restrictive statement of the Government's requirements, including an adequate technical data package, so that subsequent acquisitions may be made by conventional sealed bidding. This method is especially useful in acquisitions requiring technical proposals, particularly those for complex items. It is conducted in two steps:

(a) Step 1 consists of the request for, submission, evaluation, and (if necessary) discussion of a technical proposal. No pricing is involved. The objective is to determine the acceptability of the supplies or services offered. As used in this context, the word "technical" has a broad connotation and includes, among other things, the engineering approach, special manufacturing processes, and special testing techniques. It is the proper step for clarification of questions relating to technical requirements.

(b) Step 2 involves the submission of sealed price bids by those who submitted acceptable technical proposals in step 1.

The requested information is needed, in the absence of adequate specifications, to develop a sufficiently descriptive and not unduly restrictive statement of the Government's requirements and to determine the acceptability of proposals received. The contracting officer evaluates the acceptability of the information received, based on the criteria in the request for proposals.

B. Annual Reporting Burden

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 8 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

The annual reporting burden is estimated as follows: Respondents,

3,225; responses per respondent, 1; total annual responses, 3,225; preparation hours per response, 8; and total response burden hours, 25,800.

OBTAINING COPIES OF PROPOSALS:

Requester may obtain a copy of the justification from the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVRs), Room 4035, 1800 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 208-7312. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0041, Technical Proposal-Two-Step Sealed Bidding, in all correspondence.

Dated: December 22, 1998.

Victoria E. Moss,

Acting Director, Federal Acquisition Policy Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[OMB Control No. 9000-0108]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request Entitled Bankruptcy

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of request for public comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Secretariat will be submitting to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a currently approved information collection requirement concerning Bankruptcy. The clearance currently expires on April 30, 1999.

DATES: Comments may be submitted on or before March 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, should be submitted to: FAR Desk Officer, OMB, Room 10102, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503, and a copy to the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVRs), 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0108, Bankruptcy, in all correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Klein, Federal Acquisition Policy Division, GSA (202) 501-3775.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Purpose

Under statute, contractors may enter into bankruptcy which may have a significant impact on the contractor's ability to perform its Government contract. The Government often does not receive adequate and timely notice of this event. The clause at 52.242-13 requires contractors to notify the contracting officer within five days after the contractor enters into bankruptcy.

B. Annual Reporting Burden

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

The annual reporting burden is estimated as follows: Respondents, 1,000; responses per respondent, 1; total annual responses, 1,000; preparation hours per response, 1; and total response burden hours, 1,000.

C. Annual Recordkeeping Burden

The annual recordkeeping burden is estimated as follows: Recordkeepers, 1,000; hours per recordkeeper, .25; and total recordkeeping burden hours, 250.

Obtaining copies of proposals:

Requester may obtain a copy of the justification from the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVRs), Room 4035, 1800 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 208-7312. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0108, Bankruptcy, in all correspondence.

Dated: December 22, 1998.

Victoria E. Moss,

Acting Director, Federal Acquisition Policy Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Pilot Testing Neutralization/ Supercritical Water Oxidation of VX Agent at Newport Chemical Depot, Indiana

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.